

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY 2000 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM
PROJECT NUMBER: PIP-5b

I. Project Title:
Public Involvement for Coordinated Facilities Operations Study

II. Principal Investigators:	
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III. Project Summary:

The purpose of this project is to provide information and education to help the public understand the technical and legal complexities involved in the Coordinated Facilities Operations Study. The Coordinated Facilities Operations Study is one of several Recovery Program projects to provide water to the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River. The study is investigating several alternatives for providing an additional 20,000 acre-feet of water to supplement spring peak flows in the 15-Mile Reach during certain years through increased coordination of water facility operations. Water users, environmental groups, and the general public may be affected by implementation of some or all of the alternatives currently being investigated.

IV. Study Schedule:
Commenced in FY 99. Most major PIP and I&E tasks were completed in FY 99. Providing public information about the progress of the CFOPS study will continue through the completion of the study at the end of FY 2001. If the Recovery Program implements any of the suggested alternatives from the study, public information about the implemented operations will be provided annually in conjunction with public meetings regarding the operations of each participating facility.

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:
VI.C. Plan and implement information and education and public involvement activities for all significant Recovery Program actions.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2000 Tasks and Deliverables, Discussion of Initial Findings and Shortcomings:

The following tasks were completed in FY 1999:

- Met informally with potentially affected parties to explain the study and solicit input on possible alternatives.

- Conducted informal briefings for selected state and local officials for jurisdictions and facilities that may be affected by the possible alternatives.

- Convened two public meetings to explain and obtain public input on potential alternatives.

 - Issued news releases announcing the meetings.

 - Developed maps, graphics, and handout materials to explain the potential alternatives.

Participation in the public meetings was modest. Most individuals were members of organizations already involved in the Recovery Program.

An executive committee was created to represent possibly affected or interested parties and provide advice and guidance for the Coordinated Facilities Study. The committee consists of representatives from the following agencies:

- Colorado Water Conservation Board

- Colorado Division of Water Resources

- Environmental Defense Fund on behalf of environmental organizations

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Loveland and Grand Junction offices

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- Northern Colorado Water Conservation District on behalf of East Slope water users

- Colorado River Water Conservation District on behalf of West Slope water users

Members of the Executive Committee inform their constituents of the progress of the study and any related issues.

The following tasks were completed in FY 2000:

- 3 Meetings with Executive Committee

- Final Phase I Report published and provided to Executive Committee and any other interested parties

- Updates on the progress of the Coordinated Facilities Study provided by the Executive Committee to Recovery Program participants and other interested parties.

- The August 2000 update is included in the Appendix.

The Coordinated Facilities Study was delayed several months due to contracting difficulties and therefore few meetings were held during FY 2000. The study should be completed as scheduled in FY 2001. Several Executive Committee meetings will be held and study updates will be provided periodically. Each facility being considered in the

study will provide information about the study and its possible effects during the public meetings regarding that facility's operations.

IV. Recommendations:

No specific recommendations at this time.

V. Project Status:

Project is ongoing.

VI. FY 2000 Budget Status:

A. Funds Provided: \$3800 in-kind services provided by Colorado

B. Funds Expended: \$1500 in-kind services provided by Colorado

C. Difference: \$2300
due to low public participation and delays in CFOPS study

D. % of FY 2000 work completed, projected costs to complete:
Not Applicable

E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges:
Approximately \$500 was spent by the consultant on the publication of the CFOPS
Phase I final report

VI. Status of Data Submission:

Not Applicable

VII. Signed: Randy Seaholm

Date: December 22, 2000

APPENDIX

Coordinated Facilities Study Update August 18, 2000

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Coordinated Facilities Study is to investigate alternatives for supplying an additional 20,000 acre-feet of water on average to the 15-Mile reach of the Colorado River without diminishing usable project yield or causing project sponsors to incur significant costs. The water will be made available to supplement spring peak flows by about 1000 cfs over a 10-day period. A secondary purpose is to enhance flows in the 15-Mile Reach during the late summer and fall period.

Status

A consulting team lead by McLaughlin Water Engineers and Leo Eisel (now at Brown and Caldwell) was selected to perform the study and put under contract in March 1999. The total study cost was originally estimated to be \$395,000. The study was divided into two phases. An Executive Committee was also formed to guide the study and help develop alternatives.

Phase I looked at a wide range of possible alternatives that were subjected to a preliminary screening process in order to arrive at a short list of alternatives that would be intensively studied in Phase II. Phase I was estimated to cost approximately \$118,000. Phase I work has been completed and the final report is undergoing final edits and should be totally completed within the next month. Phase I was completed under budget and approximately \$50,000 was carried over for Phase II work.

Phase II of the project is expected to cost about \$235,000. With the Phase I carry forward, approximately \$185,000 is needed to complete Phase II. We developed the contract amendment in March of this year and it has been reviewed and forwarded to Reclamation. Delays in processing the contract occurred as we waited to see if the Long-Term Funding Legislation passed, since without long-term funding there did not appear to be adequate dollars available to complete Phase II immediately. Subsequently, Reclamation has identified other available funds and the contract amendment for completing the study has been routed for approval. As of this writing, we are still awaiting word on whether or not all the remaining funding has been fully secured and forwarded to the National Wildlife Foundation that would allow all work to proceed. In the

interim, we are doing some preliminary Phase II work with carryover funds, but I am reluctant to go very far not knowing for certain that we can complete Phase II.

We will distribute the final report as soon as it is completed and can provide the Management Committee with the Phase II scope of work if so desired. We would be happy to provide any additional information.